

bifunctional
- molecule - binding
protein

Amendments

in the Claims:

16. (Currently Amended) A method of treating a host by inhibiting a binding event between a first target protein and a second binding protein in a host, said method comprising:

administering to said host (an effective amount) of a non-naturally occurring bifunctional inhibitor molecule of less than 5000 daltons consisting of:

target protein (a) a target protein ligand that specifically binds to said first target protein; and FL506

(b) a blocking protein ligand that specifically binds to a blocking protein, FLBP

wherein said target protein ligand and said blocking protein ligand are bonded to each other, optionally through a linking group;

to simultaneously bind said first target protein and said blocking protein to produce a tripartite complex that inhibits said binding event of said second binding protein to said first target protein to treat said host. * 2nd p
1st p - TP - BP

17. (Original) The method according to Claim 16, wherein said bifunctional inhibitor molecule comprises a linking group.

18. (Original) The method according to Claim 16, wherein said bifunctional inhibitor molecule binds to a site of said target protein that is also bound by said second binding protein.

19. (Original) The method according to Claim 16, wherein said bifunctional inhibitor molecule binds to a site of said target protein that is not bound by said second

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binding protein.

20. (Original) The method according to Claim 16, wherein said tripartite complex is produced intracellularly.

21. (Original) The method according to Claim 16, wherein said tripartite complex is produced extracellularly.

22. (Original) The method according to Claim 16, wherein said blocking protein is endogenous to said host.

23. (Original) The method according to Claim 22, wherein said blocking protein is selected from the group consisting of: peptidyl-prolyl isomerases, Hsp90 (Heat shock protein 90), steroid hormone receptors, cytoskeletal proteins, albumin and vitamin receptors.

24. (Original) The method according to Claim 16, wherein said bifunctional inhibitor molecule is administered as a pharmaceutical preparation.

REMARKS

In view of the above amendments and the following remarks, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the rejections and allow Claims 16 to 24, the only claims pending and under examination at this time.

In the Office Communication, the Examiner asserted that the limitation to "treating a host" introduced in the last response effectively made the claims directed to a non-elected invention, since the previously pending claims "clearly did not involve disease treatment."